

Oxycarenus pallens (H.-S.) in Van Province (East Turkey) (Hemiptera, Lygaeidae)

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Abstract: *Oxycarenus pallens* (H.-S.) in Van Province (East Turkey) (Hemiptera, Lygaeidae). *Cesa News* 71: 1-5, 6 figs., 1 map.

This short paper deals with the first reliable record of *Oxycarenus pallens* (H.-S.) in Van Province (East Turkey). Hibernated individuals were found among the leaves of *Verbascum* sp. (*Scrophulariaceae*) in the steppe vegetation on 23 January 2011. The species and some predators are illustrated in nature. Distributional maps of the species are given.

Key words: *Oxycarenus pallens*, Hemiptera, Lygaeidae, fauna, ecology, Turkey, Van.

During an excursion to southern Van Lake basin on 23 January 2011, authors observed and collected some hibernating insects. The studying places, Gölgepınar 1500m, N. Kato Mts., Narlı köprüsü 1400m, are located at the southern area of Çatak, nearly 100-120km South of Van city (**Fig.1**).

Oxycarenus pallens (Herrich-Schäffer, 1850) in the subfamily *Oxycareninae* of the family *Lygaeidae* is observed among the *Verbascum* (*Scrophulariaceae*) leaves with the populations rich in individual number. Between the leaves, comparatively warmer air is preferred by some other hemipters and also their predators. Therefore, among the dried plants of the steppe vegetation, *Verbascum* species with hairy and thick leaves are perhaps the best organic places for hibernating insects.

The genus *Oxycarenus* was established by Fieber (1837: 339) and represented by four species in Turkey. The present species is also placed in the subgenus *Euoxycarenus* described by Samy (1969).

O. pallens (H.-S.) is widely distributed in South Europe, North Africa, Middle East, Turkey, Iran to India (**Map 1**) (see also Linnavuori, 2007). It has been found totally in 24 provinces of Turkey (29.62% of total 81 provinces) (Çağatay, 1985; Önder et al., 2006). The individuals are very small sized (2-3mm), characterized by body shape, coloration and maculation (**Figs. 2,3**). Adult insects with dark brown head, terminal antennal segments black, pronotum pale yellow with a broad brownish band, wings shiny light gray.

In the same place recorded predators are a melyrid larva (*Coleoptera*) (**Fig.4**), a young nymph of *Rhynocoris* (*Rhynocoridae*) (**Fig.5**), and a Crab spider (*Thomisus* sp., *Thomisidae*) (**Fig.6**).

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Fig. 1- Studied area in East Turkey, Van Prov., Çatak, N. Kato Mountain, Narlı köprüsü 1400m, 23 January 2011 photo A. Koçak (Cesa)



Fig.2 - *Oxycarenius pallens* (Lygaeidae, Oxycareninae), dead and alive individuals among the leaves of *Verbascum*. Van Prov., Çatak, Gölgepinar 1500m, 23 January 2011 photo M Kemal (Cesa)



Fig.3 - *Oxycaenus pallens* (Lygaeidae, Oxycaeninae). Hibernating specimens active among leaves of *Verbascum* when their place becomes warm enough, photo M Kemal (Cesa)



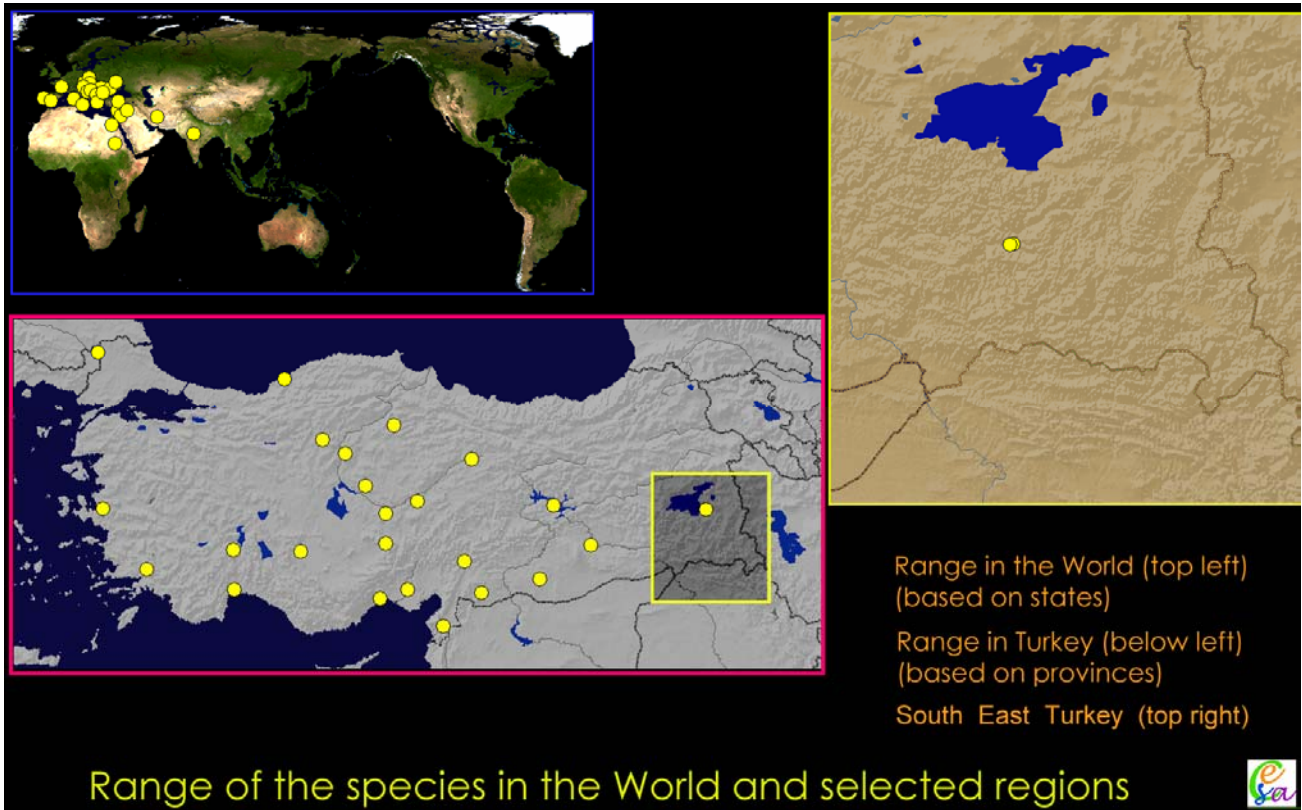
Fig. 4 – A melyrid larva, predator on small insects among leaves of *Verbascum* sp. photo M Kemal (Cesa)



Fig. 5 - Young reduviid individuuum. This predator nymph may belong to *Rhynocoris* aff. *iracundus*, photo M Kemal (Cesa)



Fig. 6 - Crab spider (*Thomisidae*, *Thomisus* sp.), among *Verbascum* leaves another important predator on small insects, photo M Kemal (Cesa)



Map 1- *Oxycarenus pallens* (Lygaeidae, Oxycareninae). In Turkey totally 24 provinces, in the World the states are marked. In South of Van, the two localities studied are close to each other.

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